

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method of making a composite fabric comprising the steps of:

forming an arrangement of fibers in contact with composite yarns wherein the composite yarns [comprising] comprise an elastomeric core and an elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 10°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core [and wherein the sheath does not include thermosetting material];

heating the arrangement of fibers and composite yarns to a temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point temperature of the core of the composite yarns whereby said fibers are attached to said sheath; and

cooling the composite fabric.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 50°C to about 75°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the forming step comprises weaving.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the forming step comprises pile weaving whereby ground warp yarns and filling yarns comprising the composite yarns are interlaced with a pile of fibers.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the pile is interlaced in a "V" or "W" configuration so the pile are wrapped around either one or three composite yarns of the ground warp yarns or the filling yarns or both.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of making a composite pile fabric comprising the steps of:

forming an arrangement of composite yarns as ground warp yarns and filling yarns and yarns as pile wherein the composite yarns each comprise an elastomeric core and an elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 50°C to about 75°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core [and wherein the sheath does not include thermosetting material];

heating the arrangement of yarns and composite yarns to a temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point temperature of the core of the composite yarns; and
cooling the composite fabric.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the core of the composite yarns comprises a thermoplastic.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the core of the composite yarns comprises a thermoplastic.

20. (Currently Amended) A [The] method of [claim 12] making a composite fabric capable of providing a wide variety of surface textures and fiber densities and providing improved adherence of surface fibers comprising the steps of:

forming an arrangement of fibers in contact with composite yarns wherein the composite yarns [consisting] consist essentially of an elastomeric core and an

elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 10°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core;

heating the arrangement of fibers and composite yarns to a temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point temperature of the core of the composite yarns whereby said fibers are attached to said sheath; and

cooling the composite fabric.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 50°C to about 75°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the forming step comprises weaving.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the forming step comprises pile weaving whereby ground warp yarns and filling yarns comprising the composite yarns are interlaced with a pile of [conventional] fibers.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the pile is interlaced in a "V" or "W" configuration so the pile are wrapped around either one or three composite yarns of the ground warp yarns or the filling yarns or both.